

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 11, as follows:

Fig. 5 is a side elevational view, in section, of an embedding cassette in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the present invention, and Fig. 5a is a view similar to Fig. 5 showing the cassette side and bottom wall elements partially removed along frangible tear lines using a pull tab;

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 5, as follows:

Referring specifically to ~~Fig. 5~~ Figs. 5, 5a and 6, the cassette 48 comprises a two-piece body including a top portion 50 and a bottom portion 51. Top portion 50 has a perforated bottom wall 52, a front wall 54, a back wall 56, and two side walls 58, 60. Preferably, the front wall 54 includes an angled extension wall 64, which provides a writing surface on which a sample identification label may be affixed. If desired, barcode indicia may be affixed to the underside surface 66 of extension wall 64. Bottom portion 51 is snap or friction mounted to top portion 50, and comprises a perforated bottom wall 75 and a bridging side wall 70 which spaces the bottom wall 75 from the top portion 50, and serves to contain molten porous embedding media. Bridging side wall 70 includes a pair of tear lines or lines of weakness 72 and a pull tab 74. The cassette including the top and bottom portions 50, 51 are made of a suitable plastic material compatible with the intended processing and fixing.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 7, as follows:

The tissue sample may be automatically processed to remove water and fix the tissue sample, etc. using known processing techniques, the last step being the paraffin infiltration step where the tissue sample and porous embedding media are infiltrated with paraffin and

allowed to solidify. Bridging side wall 70 ~~[[is]]~~ and bottom wall 75 are then peeled off the cassette along the line of weakness 72 (see Fig. 5a), ~~and the bottom wall 75~~ removed to expose the embedded tissue sample in the foam block (Fig. 8). The sample may then be sectioned on a microtome.

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